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RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 1915
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 7965
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2051
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SUBJECT: ITALY CONCERNED RUSSIA WON'T ACCEPT
MOLDOVA/GEORGIA LANGUAGE

Classified By: DCM Anna M. Borg for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) The DCM and poloff delivered reftel points to MFA Political Director Terzi and OSCE Office Director Brunella Borzi on November 22. Terzi expressed a desire for consensus on the best text possible but voiced concern regarding probable Russian objections to tough language, especially parts referencing Istanbul Commitments or the peacekeeping force in Transnistria. He said Italy had not yet seen the Belgian draft statements. Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Vittorio "Bobo" Craxi will lead the Italian delegation. Terzi does not plan to attend.

¶2. (C) After reading reftel points Terzi stressed the whole EU would need to be on the same page on this issue, but that Italy hasn't even seen the draft statements circulated by Belgium yet. Terzi believed it would be difficult to get Russian agreement for the tougher parts of our suggested language for the final communiqu.

¶3. (C) In particular Terzi pointed to two points: the call for replacing the peacekeeping forces in Transnistria; and the resumption of Russian military withdrawal and complete fulfillment of Russia's Istanbul Commitments with respect to Moldova and Georgia. Borzi indicated it might be easier to get Russian approval for a milder version with respect to Moldova, given that Russia has been meeting its commitments there. However, both agreed that Russia would have problems approving such language for Georgia.

¶4. (C) Terzi said he thought the Russians could agree to resumption of "5 2" talks and called implementation of confidence building measures as proposed by the OSCE mission in Chisinau "an important point for the EU."
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